

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01638 271448Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 HA-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 COME-00

FDRE-00 /103 W

-----004670 271610Z /45

R 271100Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7278

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NY 3543

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

UNCLAS BEIRUT 1638

STATE ALSO PASS AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNRWA, LE

SUBJECT: UNRWA APPEAL ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES FROM SOUTH
LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING IS "URGENT APPEAL ON BEHALF OF DISPLACED
PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN SOUTH LEBANON" MADE BY UNRWA IN BEIRUT
ON MARCH 23.

2. BEGIN TEXT. "BEIRUT, LEBANON--THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF
AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST
(UNRWA) URGENTLY REQUIRES CASH AND FOODSTUFFS TO MAINTAIN ITS
EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAMME FOR AN ESTIMATED 65,000 PALESTINIE
REFUGEES DISPLACED IN SOUTH LEBANON.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01638 271448Z

3. "ACCOUNTING TO AN AGENCY SPOKESMAN, UNRWA IMMEDIATELY
NEEDS \$30,000 A WEEK TO CONTINUE ITS EMERGENCY FEEDING
PROGRAMME FOR 34,000 DISPLACED REFUGEES IN SIDON. AT THIS STAGE
NO ONE CAN FORETELL FOR HOW MANY WEEKS OR MONTHS SUCH EMERGENCY
RELIEF MAY BE NECESSARY.

4. "IN ADDITION, THE AGENCY HAS URGENT NEED FOR 3,000 TENTS FOR UNSHELTERED FAMILIES, WARM CLOTHING AND SHOES FOR 8,000 YOUNG REFUGEE CHILDREN AND 30,000 BLANKETS.

5. "THE AGENCY WOULD WELCOME GIFTS IN KIND OR CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE COST OF THESE ITEMS WHICH ARE ESTIMATED TO COST \$2 MILLION.

6. "IN SIDON, UNRWA HAS INITIATED A FEEDING PROGRAMME FOR 34,00 REFUGEES FROM THE TYRE AREA AND MAINLY FROM THE REFUGEE CAMPS OF RASHIDIEH, BURJ EL-SHEMALI AND BUSS, LOCATED SOUTH OF THE LITANI RIVER. NORMALLY SOME 50,000 PALESTINE REFUGEES LIVE SOUTH OF THE LITANI RIVER.

7. "AN ESTIMATED TOTAL OF 65,000 PALESTINE REFUGEES IN SOUTH LEBANON HAVE BEEN DISPLACED TO A GREATER OR LESSER EXTENT. THOUSANDS HAVE LEFT THEIR HOMES FOR SAFER AREAS, INCLUDING AT LEAST 6,000 WHO MOVED TO BEIRUT.

8. "OF THOSE DISPLACED, THOUSANDS ARE WITHOUT ANY FORM OF SHELTER THE REMAINDER HAS FLOCKED TO COMMUNITY SHELTERS SUCH AS MOSQUES AND UNRWA SCHOOLS, AND TO OTHER REFUGEE CAMPS. EACH UNRWA CLASSROOM IN SCHOOLS IN AND AROUND SIDON NOW HOUSES AN AVERAGE OF TWO REFUGEE FAMILIES.

9. "WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FUNDS, UNRWA-THE U.N. AGENCY WHOSE MANDATE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 01638 271448Z

SINCE 1950 HAS BEEN TO ASSIST THE PALESTINE REFUGEES CREATED IN THE WAKE OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT-WILL HAVE TO CUT SHORT ITS FOOD DISTRIBUTION TO THE 34,000 DISPLACED REFUGEES IN SIDON. THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION, HELD ON ALTERNATE DAYS, INCLUDES BREAD, TINNED BEEF AND CHEESE. ONE TIN OF CORNED BEEF IS GOING TO TWO REFUGEES ONCE EVERY TWO DAYS. THE COST OF EACH FOOD DISTRIBUTION IS \$8,000 OR APPROXIMATELY 25 U.S. CENTS PER PERSON.

10. "UNRWA HAS ALREADY DISTRIBUTED 11,000 BLANKETS, AND SUPPLIES OF TINNED BEEF AND POWDERED MILK EARLIER THIS WEEK. IN BEIRUT, UNRWA HAS EXTENDED ITS SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAMME FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN TO INCLUDE THOSE DISPLACED FROM THE SOUTH UP TO 15 YEARS SEVERAL THOUSAND NEEDY REFUGEE CHILDREN IN LEBANON, SIX YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.

11. "UNRWA, A SUBSIDIARY ORGAN OF THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ASSISTS 1.7 MILLION PALESTINE REFUGEES IN LEBANON, JORDAN, SYRIA, THE ISRAELI-OCCUPIED WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP. THROUGHOUT THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR OF 1975-76 UNRWA CONTINUED TO PROVIDE EDUCATION, HEALTH AND RELIEF SERVICES TO REFUGEES IN FUNDS FOR ITS REGULAR PROGRAMMES IN 1978." EN TEXT.

PARKER

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